



AGC/WSDOT ROADWAY TEAM

MINUTES for Meeting of December 4, 2003

AGC Office, Tacoma WA

Attending:

Frank Scarsella
Dan Glover
Ray Arnold
Larry Eik

Bill Grady
Jim Spaid
Dean Moberg

Bob Glenn
Al Dyer
Terry Mattson

Minutes of October 16, 2003 Meeting

Distributed copies and no added comments made.

Old Business

Minutes of Other Team Meetings: Meeting notes from other the Administration and Structures Teams were distributed and discussed as follows:

Admin Team meeting of October 17, 2003 – Jim Spaid noted that the evaluation of traffic control changes was still in progress. Only one of the sixteen trial projects had been closed out to date. Another topic under discussion was the revision of specification for schedules, time for completion and other time-related issues.

Admin Team meeting of November 14, 2003 – Jim noted that Jeff Carpenter has a new position in the Construction Office and will be reactivating the AGC/WSDOT Design-Build Team. The 2004 Standard Specifications books are now available, and the WSDOT website will allow access to a PDF version. A subcommittee was established to investigate discrepancies between state law and federal requirements on “prompt pay”. New insurance specs will be out as amendments to the 2004 spec book.

Structures Team meeting of October 10, 2003 – The Structures Team is also reviewing the new retaining wall specs.

Meeting notes from various industry/WSDOT teams may be viewed at the State Construction Office website at the following address:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/biz/construction/Default.cfm>

Retaining Wall Specifications – Section 6-11 through 6-18, 9-03, 9-10, and 9-33.

Larry Eik provided an update of the progress of retaining wall specifications. As the WSDOT review team has completed a review of the specifications and GSPs. Larry will be compiling all comments and making appropriate changes. The updated version should be available by the next meeting in January.

New Business

Roadway Construction Office Changes. - Jim Spaid noted that Dave Jones, one of the Roadway Construction Engineers, has transferred to the Construction Administration section. Jim said he hoped to be able to announce a replacement for Dave at the next meeting.

Motorcycle Warning Sign Legislation – The Washington State Legislature passed a law in the 2003 session that required that special warning signs for certain work zones locations that may hazardous to motorcycles. The new law becomes effective on January 1, 2004. Jim Spaid passed out a sheet of guidelines for when and where the signs should be used. The guidelines will be used by WSDOT designers to determine when the signs will be required by the road conditions expected during construction, and to see that they are included in traffic control plans.

There was some discussion as to whether these signs will be considered as Class A or B construction signs. In the definitions of the two classes of construction signing, the motorcycle warning signs could be either. Some form of compensation will be provided for any signs that have to be added to existing contracts.

Bob asked if the wording “approximate” could be included with the spacing requirements for these signs. After discussion on this request it was decided that “approximate” would be added to the spacing, as this was the intent.

Traffic Control Devices – NCHRP 350 Update -Frank Newboles of the WSDOT Traffic Office was available at the meeting to discuss the current issues involving the implementation of the NCHRP 350 to construction signing and what materials are acceptable for use on WSDOT projects. Jim Spaid noted that any discussion of this issue on the Roadway Team needs to be put forward to the Admin Team in the form of recommendations for change.

Frank noted that current specifications require that Category 2 traffic control devices, including portable sign supports and signs, purchased after October 1, 2000, must meet the requirements of NCHRP 350. Any equipment the contractor had prior to that could be used until December 31, 2007. This phase-in period was to allow contractors to gradually switch over to the new standard. The Traffic Office prefers that rigid sign material be used, particularly at night. Roll-up signs tend to curl and deform in windy conditions, and become difficult to see at night. Some regions have been rejecting the use of roll-up signs for construction.

In discussion, it was noted that there was limited availability of portable sign systems that had been tested for NCHRP 350 compliance. Some contractors purchased roll-up sign systems to replace their stock of portable signs that did not comply with NCHRP 350. Bob Glenn participated as a member of the team that that was charged with making

recommendations for implementing NCHRP 350. The team developed the phase-in periods and discussed the types of acceptable portable sign systems that were available at that time. Bob passed out copies of notes he had kept from the team meetings, and indicated that use of roll-up signs may be allowed due to the limited number of sign systems that were NCHRP 350 compliant.

The following recommendations were developed to pass along to the Admin Team for further discussion:

- Specifications for construction signs need to be clarified as to the type of material or requirements of the sign system beyond NCHRP 350 compliance.
- Roll-up signs should be allowed on construction projects for daytime use only. This type of sign system is routinely used for WSDOT maintenance operations.
- Clarify FHWA position regarding the use of roll-up signs on construction projects.
- The 2003 version of the MUTCD apparently requires that all Category 1 through 3 traffic control devices must comply with NCHRP 350 by 2005. This is in conflict with the phase-in periods outlined in the WSDOT Standard Specifications.

Other Business

Jim Spaid passed out copies of the preliminary agenda for the upcoming AGC/WSDOT Joint Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2004, and will be held at the Fife Best Western Conference Center beginning at 8:30 and running through dinner and presentation of awards. Jim encouraged all the team members to be in attendance.

Discussion Topics

The following list of topics will be kept as part of the minutes and future agendas to indicate the items that have surfaced as issues for discussion by the team. As each issue is addressed, it may be removed from the list. As new issues are raised, they will be added to the list as a reminder of the things that need discussion:

{Note: Issues that are added will now include the date (11/30/00) they were included on the list so the team can track their longevity}

- Galvanizing of fence products – review of current specs for consistency.
- Shoulder Rock - further discussion of method of payment.
- Smoothness Specification for ACP - this is an issue of information. A subcommittee of the APAW/WSDOT Joint Task Force is working on the specifics of this issue.
- Longitudinal Wedge Joint
- Testing Storm Sewer Pipe - recent changes in the testing requirements for HDPE pipe have increased the length of time for testing.
(5/24/01) - What is the background for those changes?
(9/20/01) - Discussed the duration of the test. Bill G. said why hold it so long when you know within the first few minutes if you have a leak and thus a failing pipe.
- Signal Detector Loops - Suggested the number of bid items could be reduced by bidding loops per each rather than separate bid items for each type of set (for instance, R1, R2, R3, etc. for loop sets of 1, 2 or 3 loops).
- Structure Excavation Class B – backfilling trenches (5/9/03)
- Aggregate Substitution (5/9/03)

Next Meeting

Meetings are scheduled for **Thursday, January 15, 2004 and Thursday, February 26, 2004**. The meetings will be held at the Tacoma AGC office beginning at **8:00am**.